

8-1-1982

Honga : the leader, v. 05, no. 08

American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.

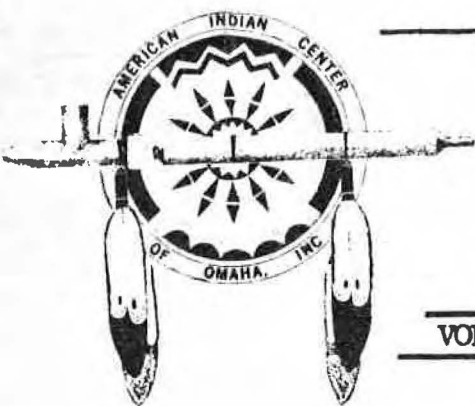
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HONGA

VOLUME 5, No. 8

"The Leader"

August 1982

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Native American Community,

We've had our share of warm weather but the rain has been ample over recent weeks so we can't really complain. If we did not have warm weather and rain, our local economy would suffer immeasurably. Autumn will soon be on its way and although the days will still be somewhat warm, the nights shall turn cooler.

I wait with expectation for those beautiful Indian summer days of October! This is when I enjoy going back to the reservation to walk through the woods and, forgetting everything, absorb myself into the gold and red countryside. Especially in this day and age, this is good for the mind and soul, leaving one refreshed.

Due to severe governmental and charitable budget reductions, we too have felt an adverse impact on our ongoing funding. As a result, we lost our much needed Indian Child Welfare program. I'm truly disappointed that OMB and BIA refused to fund the urban Indian organizations, especially in our area. The least BIA could have done was to tell us they weren't going to fund urban centers instead of having us believe we had submitted an inferior proposal. Consequently, we had to appeal it to a higher authority which amounted to a waste of time and precious money. It was not until later that we learned that no urban Indian centers were funded under the Indian Child Welfare Act. This seems to be a clear cut case of outright deception. It is true that of the nine thousand plus Native Americans living in Nebraska more than four thousand of them reside off the three re-

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servations according to the 1980 census. (It has been recently estimated that more than twelve thousand Native Americans actually reside in Nebraska.)

Apart from the foregoing, I do have some good news! The Omaha City Council has awarded AICO \$40,000 for calendar year 1983 to continue the Indian Child Welfare program. We appreciate this generous act by these kind and understanding people. (See article elsewhere on this topic.)

A recent visitor to AICO was Mr. Robert Kerrey, a congressional medal of honor winner and democratic candidate for Nebraska governor. In a follow-up letter he wrote: "It was interesting and informative to meet with you and the staff of the American Indian Center on Monday. Native American issues intrigue me very much, and I hope that as governor I can begin to offer some constructive solutions. I would appreciate your summarizing your concerns in writing for me and my staff. Proper solutions to the urban Indian situation must be based on a thorough understanding of the issues involved."

"Thank you for taking the time to express your thoughts to me. I look forward to your response." Mr. Kerry was provided with a six-page letter covering in essence the Native American scene.

I was recently appointed by Mayor Mike Boyle to serve on the City's Human Relations Board.

I learned the other day by a call from Alicia Y. Ellis, a Comanche Indian, representing the Mid-Continent Federal Regional Council in Kansas City, Missouri, that a meeting will convene at 1 p.m., at the Best Western Inn, Lincoln Airport, on August 17. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the block grant process with state officials by

Continued on Page 2, Col. 1

representatives of Indian tribes and tribal organizations from across the state. It may be mentioned at this time that AICO is presently a sub-contractor to GOCA for Community Service Block Grant funds.

We have submitted our annual ANA proposal to Washington, D.C. The thrust is geared toward economic and social development for self-sufficiency. A major concern of ours relates to future funding inasmuch as Indian organizations nation-wide are suffering from a loss of funding.

Very sincerely,

Wayne Tyndall

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES BUDGET...

The following are brief excerpts taken from a recent article printed in the Omaha World-Herald concerning the proposed City Budget:

"In the only budget item to generate debate, the council voted 5-2 to provide \$40,000 for the American Indian Center's child welfare program next year. The city isn't providing any money for the center this year, and Mayor Boyle recommended no funding for next year.

Mrs. Wagner and Tomacek voted against the appropriation.

"I have a great feeling we're playing Santa Claus here, but we can't afford it," Mrs. Wagner said. "What do we tell other adoption agencies like the Catholic adoption service or the Jewish Welfare Society when they come to us for money? What makes this group any different?"

Calinger defended the decision.

"This is but a small drop in the bucket," Calinger said. "Indians have held a unique place in our society - unfortunately, at the bottom end. The Indian center is attempting to do something about their problems. We'll get a good return on our dollar."

"I still feel we shouldn't fund those agencies, but from discussions

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I've had with council members, it does not look as if those votes are going to change," Mayor Boyle said. "It would only aggravate things to bring it up again (with a veto)."

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EVENTS...

The last month and a half has been a very busy and productive period for the department.

The department has submitted two grant proposals (ANA - Private Sector and the HHS Discretionary Funds Preapplications) to help support some of the proposed businesses of AICO. Also, the department received tentative approval from the Inner-City Ventures Fund to begin an Apartment Rehabilitation program for the Indian community.

Buffalo Printing Company, the only minority owned and operated printing company in Omaha, officially opened for commercial business on August 2, 1982. The potential for the business is positive. We invite the members of the Indian community to come down to 1516 Jones St. to tour the company.

The department is attempting to develop various economic ventures to provide employment and income for the Indian community. In the next issue of the newsletter, we hope to provide more information pertaining to some of the new economic ventures at AICO.

NEW NAME FOR ALCOHOLISM PROGRAM...

The AICO Alcoholism Program will soon have a new name effective October 1, 1982. The new name will be FOUR WINDS Alcoholism Program.

Elmer Necklace, Alcoholism Program Director is encouraging former clients to utilize the program more often by coming to weekly A.A. meetings. Mr. Necklace says, "Some people are using the program only when they get into some kind of trouble." Mr. Necklace adds, "Priority will be given to those people who are making an honest effort at sobriety and are also staying in touch with us."

OLDEST OMAHA DIES...

Mary Pearl Hanika born March 12, 1892 was the oldest living Omaha Indian. She died quietly in her home recently on the Omaha reservation. She was the last living allottee and still owned her allotment of land. She attended Genoa Indian School in Nebraska and took her nurses training in Omaha.

She worked at U.S. Indian Service hospitals in Rapid City, South Dakota; Ft. Defiance, Arizona; and Winnebago, Nebraska. She retired from civil service in 1950.

AICO learned on August 13, that the National Indian Council on Aging in Albuquerque, New Mexico had selected her to receive an award for her outstanding service and contributions to her people. Her award will be given Posthumously on August 24 in Albuquerque.

VIDEO-TAPE NEARS COMPLETION...

Three documentaries on the American Indian Center are slated for completion by the 15th of September.

The documentaries will focus on the American Indian Center itself, its programs, purpose and staff. A second documentary will be devoted to the Alcoholism Program and its importance to the Indian community. The last documentary will center on an urban Indian family and the problems, struggles and hardships the family must face.

It should be emphasized that the three documentaries are not for fund-raising purposes but to provide information on the urban Indians in Omaha to the general public. If AICO is to become a partner in the city's development, then we must let the people know who we are.

The documentaries are being produced by AICO in cooperation with Mr. Gary Downing from Metro Tech.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM DONATES PICTURES...

The Omaha Children's Museum on 551 South 18th Street recently approached

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the American Indian Center and offered the donation of 17 pictures of the Omaha, Winnebago and Santee Tribes from the early 1930's. According to one of the Children Museum representatives, each picture is worth from \$80 to \$100.

The pictures will be put on permanent display in the AICO Board of Directors Conference Room.

We thank the Children's Museum for their kind generosity in thinking of us.

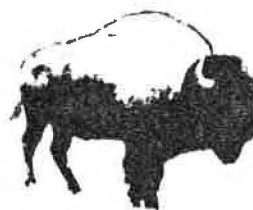
PARTING COMMENTS...

AICO is formed of Indian people, formed by Indian people, and formed for Indian people.

The last two are easy to understand. AICO was originally formed by a group of concerned Indian community members who wanted to address the needs facing the Indian people.

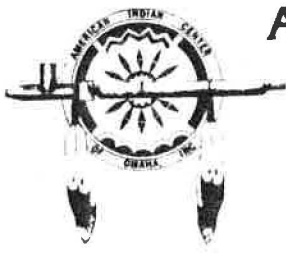
The first part, "formed of Indian people" means basically three separate and distinct things: First, that it is of course staffed by Indian people, and secondly, that it has an all-Indian Board of Directors. The third aspect and probably the most important, is that AICO and all that it owns, is owned by the Indian people of Omaha. Furthermore, whatever action is taken on their behalf and whatever decisions are made concerning them, must be told to them. At the same time, more and more community members must contribute to the mission and direction they have set for themselves. Bygones must be bygones and a new unity formed.

The trip is long, the road rocky, and the hardships are many, but if we take the trip together, we can overcome anything and finish the trip together!



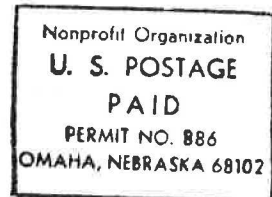
This newsletter is printed monthly by Buffalo Printing Co.

A subsidiary of AICO Enterprises, Inc.



AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF OMAHA INC.

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* CALENDAR OF EVENTS *

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| Mondays &
Wednesdays | A.A. Meetings at the "Four Winds" Alcoholism Program,
3483 Larimore Avenue beginning at 7:00 p.m. Public
invited. For more information, call 453-6377. |
| August 19 | AICO Board of Directors Meeting, from 7:00 p.m. to
9:00 p.m. Public welcome. |
| August 19-22 | 106th Annual Ponca POW-WOW, at the White Eagle Park,
7 mi. South of Ponca City on Hwy. 177. Over \$3,000
in Prize Money. |
| August 19-22 | Sioux Nation Arts Council, 13th Annual Big Sun Dance.
Fourteen (14) miles North of Eagle Butte, South Dakota. |
| August 21-22 | 2nd Annual Omaha Tribal Golf Tournament. For more
information, call Pete Gilpin at 402/837-5391 or Jim
Cournoyer at 402/494-4592. |
| September 14 | G.E.D. classes begin at AICO. For more information,
call Fred LeRoy at 344-0111. |